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ABSTRACT

This book discusses censorship as it affects schools and school library media centers. Chapter 1 is an introduction. Chapter 2 describes who and why some people and organizations object so strongly to some school materials, as well as those organizations that support intellectual freedom. Chapter 3 provides a historical perspective on censorship to show that censorship problems in schools are not a new phenomenon. Chapter 4 is an overview of some of the important legal decisions about censorship problems in schools and school libraries. Chapter 5 describes in detail some of the school materials that are the target of censors. Chapter 6 explains the policies and procedures that school staff should follow before and after there is a challenge to school materials. Chapter 7 discusses current issues concerning censorship in schools and school libraries, including Internet filtering. Chapter 8 presents some ideas on how librarians can promote intellectual freedom in the school or school library. Appendices include: a collection of intellectual freedom statements; policies related to electronic resources; a sample school library materials section policy and a rationale form for selecting school materials; a list of challenged books; an application form from the LeRoy C. Merritt Fund; and a list of intellectual freedom adversaries and advocates. (Contains a selected bibliography of 45 titles.) (MES)

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